



Ryders Health Management

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February 16, 2017

Written testimony of Martin Sbriglio, RN, CEO, NHA, Ryders Health Management Concerning the Governor's Recommended FY 2018 and FY 2019 Proposed Budget

Good evening Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker and to the members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Martin Sbriglio. I am an RN, CEO, NHA at Ryders Health Management, Inc. a Corporate office which supports several Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers in Connecticut. Our Facilities have been providing nursing home care in the communities of Chester, Newington, Waterbury, Waterford, Stratford, and Mystic for 50+ years. We have 646 licensed nursing home beds, employ approximately 1,500 people and have received countless awards for excellent care(5 star ratings, World & News Report for best nursing home, and bronze awards). Our family business has built an outstanding reputation as a provider of quality care.

I want to begin by letting you know how proud I am to be here with some of the key people from our industry. I'm an administrator, but these devoted caregivers, from [RNs, LPNs, CNAs, etc...] all want what I want----that is to deliver the highest quality care experience to anyone who comes to a Ryders Health facility. And these workers are doing an amazing job, and I am so grateful to them, and proud of them, for everything they are doing. They are underappreciated and perform a very vital service to our elderly community helping them rehabilitate quickly to return home. Then once home help them to stay home and not return to the hospital.

But making the nursing home care great has so many challenges. Making the care what everyone wants for their loved ones is getting harder and harder to provide. And the reason it's getting so hard isn't really difficult to understand---there has been almost no help in the state budget for now going on 10 years. If the budget passes as is, it will be a full decade of nearly flat funding for our nursing facility. More devastating, is the idea that our nursing facility could be cut this session because of our state's ongoing financial troubles.

However, this year the Department of Social Services began an implementing a policy that will cut the property component of our rates---and these cuts will grow even more on July 1, 2017. At the Ryders Health Facility's our state revenue will decrease \$23,000 from January 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018. It is really beyond my ability to understand how we could deliver the care we want to deliver if these cuts stand. This is happening at a time when our costs are going up. For example last year, we

significantly increased the wages and benefits for our hardworking employees. We also understand that the proposed budget will increase the fines nursing homes pay by 400 per cent (from \$5,000 to \$20,000.). When no new resources have been provided in ten years, is it really fair to increase the fines so dramatically?

However, we have so many additional pressures beyond the important need to pay our workers a fair wage for the great jobs they are doing and doing our best to avoid fines. Here are some examples:

- Changing Health Insurance plan designs to large deductible plans, negotiating group purchasing contracts (for food, Medical supplies, energy, & waste removal), and recruit staff to help lower overtime to name a few cost reduction initiatives. While keep delivering the care that everyone wants and should expect.
- Here at the Ryders facilities the needs of our residents are also increasing. The acuity of our residents is so much more complex as our population's ages. And that there are more options for those with fewer care needs to be home and getting services there. But the residents that come to the Ryders Facility's need to be with us. Their needs are too complex for care at home.
- The increase in tracking and measuring outcomes of patient care, the acuity levels of patients coming into the facilities, drug costs, and bariatric equipment all aid in the financial pressures of a facility.

Please help us deliver the high quality care we want to deliver by reversing cuts to our nursing homes.

On behalf of everyone at Ryders Health Management and all our Facilities (listed above) thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Martin Sbriglio, RN,CEO, NHA